

compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the dReam Center Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 4th Anniversary of their founding;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 16, 2010 as, The dReam Center Church Day, in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 16th day of May, 2010.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I voted against H. Res. 1258 designating the month of May as National Mental Health Month to draw attention to the threat to liberty posed by proposals to perform mandatory mental evaluations of all schoolchildren without parental consent.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on

social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

In order to protect our nation's children from mandatory mental health screening, I have introduced the Parental Consent Act, H.R. 2218. This bill forbids federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children. I hope all my colleagues will co-sponsor H.R. 2218.

IN HONOR OF JOHN KERRIGAN

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Kerrigan, a volunteer for the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), a program that has matched volunteers with Burlington County non-profit organizations since 1971.

Mr. Kerrigan has volunteered for twenty-five years at Catholic Charities, Emergency and Community Services in Delanco, New Jersey. As a dedicated volunteer in their food pantry, he spends his time shelving and packing donated food items for families in need in Burlington County.

Thanks to John's steady, behind-the-scenes efforts, six to seven hundred families receive emergency food assistance from Emergency and Community Services each month. John's work is seen by only a few but appreciated by so many.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you please join me in congratulating John for his outstanding and dedicated service to the less fortunate in our South Jersey communities.

MATTHEW MCGEE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matthew McGee who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Matthew McGee is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because

his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matthew McGee is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Matthew McGee for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ST. CLARE WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL IN LOCUST HILL, VA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to recognize St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust Hill, VA for their recent national accreditation as a "School to Watch".

In 1999 the National Forum introduced the "Schools to Watch" Program. This program is a national partnership that seeks to identify and recognize high-performing middle schools. A strict criteria and guidelines, set by the "Schools to Watch" Forum, help identify the high-performing middle schools. Schools that are distinguished as "high-performing" demonstrate academic excellence by challenging students, are sensitive to the unique developmental needs of early adolescents, and provide students with high-quality resources and educators. St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust Hill, VA was recognized for meeting and exceeding the criteria.

St. Clare Walker Middle School Principal Dr. James Lane spearheaded and succeeded in creating a school that helps students excel academically, socially, and developmentally. Dr. Lane's commitment to excellence has resulted in national recognition as one of the best middle schools in Virginia. I want to commend the entire faculty, staff and students of St. Clare Walker Middle School for their hard work. As the husband of a school teacher I understand the vital work and learning that takes place every day in classrooms across the Commonwealth. The educators at St. Clare Walker Middle School have helped to create a learning environment that positions their students for lifelong academic success. I also want to recognize Superintendent Donald Fairheart, school board members, and members of the board of supervisors for their support and dedication to the success of St. Clare Walker Middle School.

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting St. Clare Walker Middle School. I was able to spend the day with the faculty, teachers, and students. I was impressed by the many dedicated teachers and faculty with a passion for educating our Nation's youth. I also enjoyed meeting and talking with many St. Clare Walker Middle School students who exhibited great enthusiasm for learning.

I want to take some time today, to congratulate St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust